

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The previously pending claims were objected to due to formal matters and as being indefinite. The previously pending claims have been replaced with new claims drafted to patentably recite the present invention and to be proper as to form. Accordingly, withdrawal of the formal objections/rejection is solicited.

The previously pending claims were rejected as either anticipated or rendered obvious by SHAFFER et al. 5,960,110.

As noted above, the claims have been amended to patentably recite the present invention over the prior art and particularly over this applied reference.

With respect to the former set of claims, the amended claims include that the transmission time slots are programmed with markers corresponding to delay sensitive traffic services. A central node is arranged to consult storage cells in succession to determine whether any marker designating a delay sensitive traffic service is present. This makes it possible to dynamically allocate a time slot to a network node carrying a delay sensitive traffic service if a marker corresponding to said traffic service is present in a consulted cell.

This differs from SHAFFER et al. in that it enables efficient handling of hybrid traffic over a shared multiplexed link as well as enables handling several delay sensitive services over a shared medium.

SHAFFER et al. describes that isochronous traffic is to be transmitted on periodically reserved time slots which obstructs or at least counteracts the dynamics of the present invention and requiring reconfiguration in case the allocation of time slots is desired to occur at other times within the frames that are in accordance with the configuration which was made in advance. Moreover, SHAFFER et al. does not disclose markers to be used dynamically the way the present claims recite.

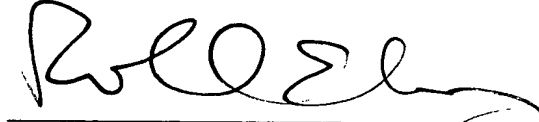
In view of the above, applicants have amended the claims to recite the invention in a patentable manner over the prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roland E. Long, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

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REL/mjr
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